

**Capital:** Ashgabat

**Population:** 4.9 million (2004) : Turkmen 85%, Uzbek 5%, Russian 4%, other 6% (2003).

**GDP(current US\$):** \$6.2 billion (2003)

**Population below national poverty line:** 58% (2003)

**GDP per capita (current US\$):** \$5800 (2004)

**GDP per capita (purchasing power parity):** \$5800 (2004)

**Religion:** Muslim (89%), Eastern Orthodox (9%)

**Language:** Turkmen (72%), Russian (12%), Uzbek (9%), other (7%)

**President:** Saparmurat Niyazov

**Chairman of Supreme Council:** Ovezgeldy Atayev

**Ambassador to US:** Mered Orazov



**National Interest:** Turkmenistan is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests due to its role in helping the United States in the global war on terrorism; its oil and gas resources; and its role as a source and transit route for narcotics and possibly nuclear and other materials. The lack of political or economic reform in Turkmenistan makes it difficult to achieve large-scale successes, however. USAID focuses its assistance on human capital development, expanding opportunities for the next generation of citizens, with modest programs in small business development, civil society, health, water, and conflict mitigation.

### **OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN TURKMENISTAN**

FY05: Total FSA - \$6.5 million, USAID Total - \$4.6 million

**Economic Reform (FY05 \$0.9 million, 19.6%):** The GOTX's restrictive economic policies have limited USAID's involvement in advancing significant economic reforms. Instead, USAID focuses on preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs by offering basic business education courses, including marketing, business planning, and international accounting standards (Pragma). The EdNet program (Carana) offers training to university professors and others in economics and business education, and provides research opportunities and scholarships. Seminars of international and commercial law are provided to Turkmen law students, legal professionals, and entrepreneurs (ABA/CEELI).

**Energy and Water (FY05 \$0.2 million, 4.3%):** As part of its capacity-building effort toward future generations of energy officials, USAID supports training and partnerships with U.S. policy specialists to help government oil and gas companies better manage their resources. USAID also assists the government in enforcing regulations that bring Turkmenistan into conformity with international standards governing oil and gas production, and has introduced new ideas to clean oil fields and minimize waste in oil and gas fields. Water activities include training in water management, work with water users associations, and support of a regional transboundary program designed to improve interstate cooperation (PA Consulting).

**Democracy (FY05 \$1.2 million, 26.1%):** Despite difficult challenges in Turkmenistan, limited democracy work is possible at the grassroots level. USAID supports the development of the NGO sector broadly through its network of Civil Society Support Centers. These Centers provide key intermediary support for local civil society actors and provide small grants and training on issues such as advocacy, strategic planning, and fundraising (Counterpart). USAID's legal reform program targets future legal professionals by building students' practical writing and oral advocacy skills through moot courts, mock trials, and Street Law, while giving them hands-on practice through the establishment of university-affiliated legal clinics (Freedom House, ABA/CEELI).

**Health and Population (FY05 \$1.7 million, 37%):** USAID's Central Asian Program on AIDS Control and Intervention Targeting Youth and High-Risk Groups (CAPACITY) will continue to implement activities to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Turkmenistan. USAID implementers are working closely with the GOTX on its grant application to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). In primary health care, USAID provides training in family medicine and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses approach (Abt Associates). USAID is also strengthening the capacity of health NGOs to promote maternal and child health (Counterpart). Health partnerships provide retraining for doctors and nurses (AIHA).

**Cross-Cutting Programs (FY05 \$0.6 million, 13%):** The cross-cutting portfolio consists primarily of training and exchanges to support USAID's technical assistance programs (AED) as well as the "community connections" program, to enhance public diplomacy (TBD).

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